



GREEN ARROW & THORN
DR. FATE & THE SHADE • NEW GODS

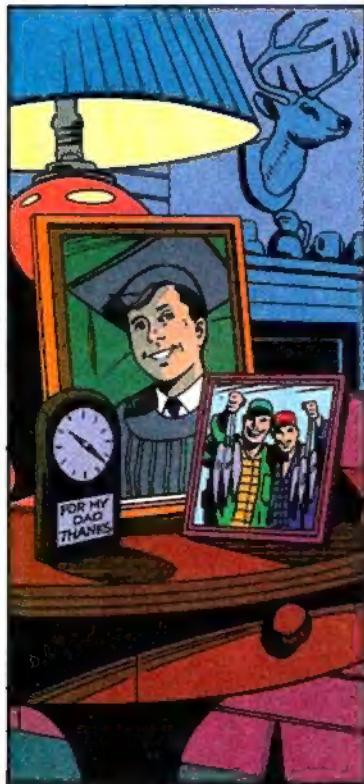
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AMERICA
COMICS
FOR
ADULTS

SHOWCASE '96





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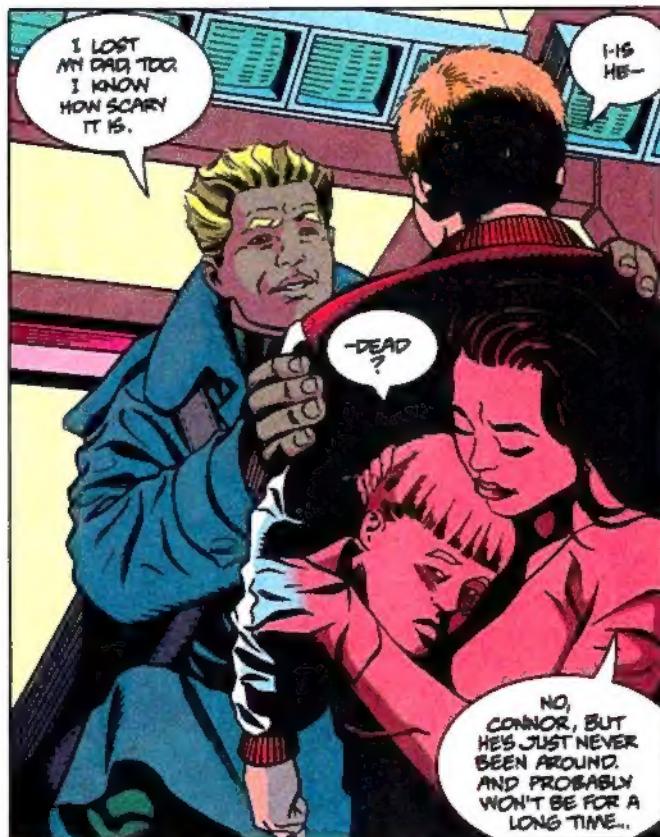
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FATHERS AND OTHER STRANGERS

DARREN VINCENZO-writer / STEVE ERWIN-penciller
GERRY FERNANDEZ-inker / DAVE GRAFE-colorist
KEN BRUZENAK-letterer
CHRIS DUFFY & FRANK PITTARESE-edits









WARRIOR

KEEEPEEESH

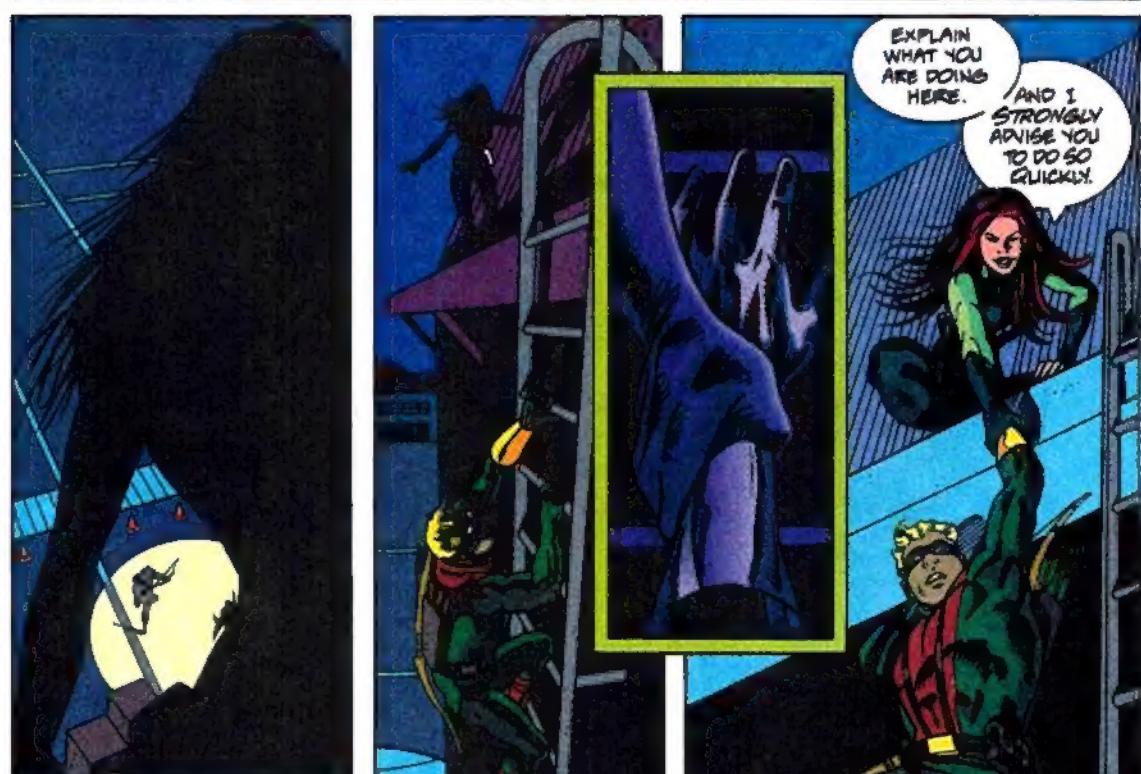
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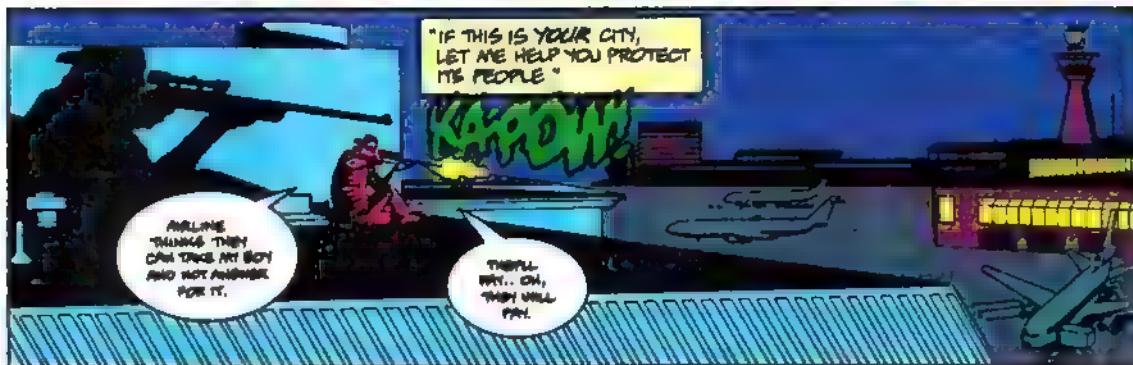
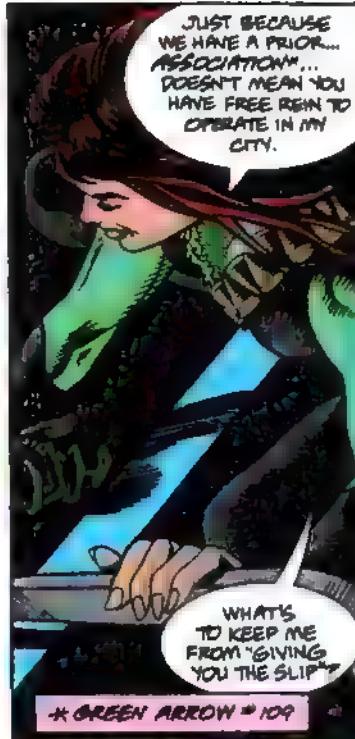
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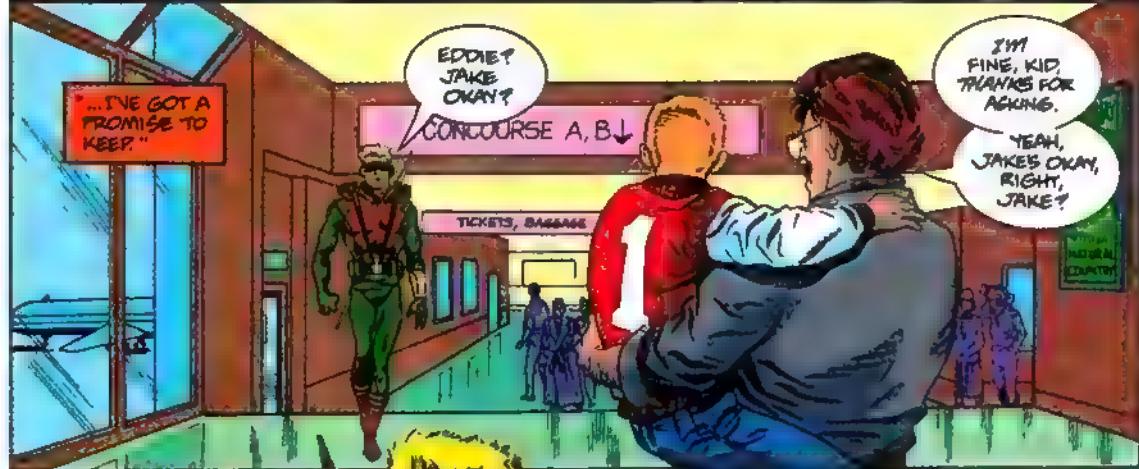






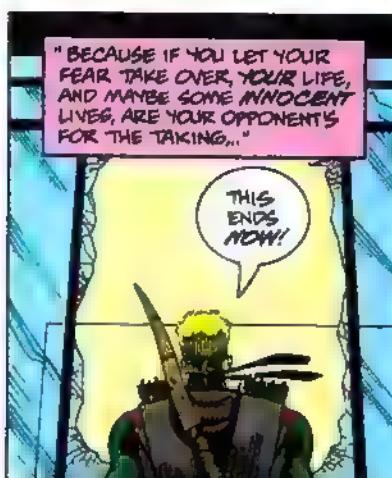














I WAS
THINKING BACK
TO A LESSON
TAUGHT TO
ME BY A
GREAT
TEACHER.





IT WAS AN
INTERESTING
NIGHT

SINGULAR.

A TERM ACQUAINTANCES
SAY I USE TOO OFTEN. YET IT
WAS TRUE OF THAT HOUR,
INDEED.

I HAD FIGHTN'
THE TWO FLASHES

I HAD BEEN SNATCHED FROM
THE MELEE BY FATE... DR. FATE
THAT IS, THE MAGE OF OLD.

THERE WAS A CULT. THE WISE
FOOL CRAZED AND CRUEL AS
CULTS CAN SOMETIMES BE.
THEY HAD SOME MAGIC AT THEIR
DISPOSAL. THEY WANTED MORE.

THEIR GUARDS WERE MAGICALLY
TRANSFORMED BEAST-MEN.

THE POWER THEY DESIRED... WAS SHADOW
POWER. THE SAME AS I WIELD. AND THEY
WOULD DRAW THE ENERGY OF SOULS TO DO
THIS. SIPHONING A LITTLE FROM THE SOUL
OF EVERY LISTENER TO A RADIO STATION
THEY HEARD, THEY WOULD GAIN THE
POTENCY TO RECREATE THE SAME SPELL
THAT ONCE MADE ME.

THEY USED AN INDIVIDUAL NAMED
CULP TO DO THIS. HE, A FELLOW
WHO KNEW ME OF OLD... WHO KNEW
MY ORIGIN.

HE WAS THERE AT
THE TIME, AFTER ALL

AND HE WAS MY PRIZE. THE REASON I
ACCOMPANIED FATE, AS HE ATTEMPTED
TO PERFORM A SPELL OF CONTAINMENT
FOR THE CULT'S SHADOW RITE

I WANTED CULP. I WANTED
HIS HEAD IN MY HANDS.

WITH HIS BODY
DETACHED AND BONE-
WHERE ELSE.

AND AS THE RADIO CHAT-
LINE CHATTERED... WITH PEOPLE'S
PROBLEMS AIRED AND ADVICE
GIVEN...

...SO WE
BEGAN OUR
ASSAULT.

THE SHADOW DR. FATE IN THE FATES PAST DARK & NIGHT, DARK & BRIGHA

JAMES TROWBRIDGE WRITER
MARK SWAN ART
MICHAEL KIRKMAN & ROBERT
CHRIS ELOPOLIS LETTERER
CHECK-IN EDITOR



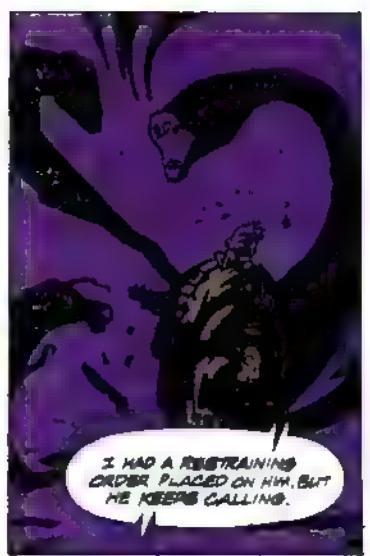




PHANTOM











RAW DARK,
THIS PLACE IS
DROWNING IN
IT.

THERE'S WORK THEN I
COME HOME AND THERE'S
THE KIDS, AND MY HUSBAND
HASN'T HAD A JOB IN A
YEAR, AND HE DOESN'T DO
ANYTHING AROUND THE
HOUSE.

I'M
JUST SO
TIRED.

WE WILL
HARNESS ITS MIGHT,
AND BRING THIS
COUNTRY TO ITS
KNEES.

OH NO...

...YOU'LL
DIE HERE, AND
NO ONE WILL
KNOW YOU EVEN
LIVED.

AND I FEEL SO HOLY,
BUT THERE IS NEVER ANY
TIME OR MONEY TO DO
ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

AND I HATE
TO COOK
NOMADAYS BUT
IF I DON'T,
WHO WILL?

FATE, CALL ME A
NAG, BUT THAT SPELL
OF CONTAINMENT
WOULD COME IN
NICELY ABOUT NOW.

AND,
AND,
AND,
YEAH,
THO!

PATIENCE,
SHADE.
PATIENCE...

I HAVE
SLEEPING TABLETS.
FIFTY SAVED, IT WOULD
BE SOOO EASY TO
JUST WASH THEM
DOWN WITH SOME
LIQUOR.

...S
GOLDEN

AND SAY
GOOD-BYE TO
EVERYTHING.



WELL,
THAT WAS
PRETTY.



AND
EFFECTIVE.



THE DARK IS GONE,
BUT NOT DESTROYED.
IT EXISTS NOW ON A
DIFFERENT PLANE OF
EXISTENCE, GROWING AND
GETTING STRONGER AND
WILDER, WITHOUT A
MASTER TO TAME IT.



PERHAPS I'M A
GLASS IS HALF FULL
TYPE OF CHAP, BUT
THAT BEANS ACCUR-
ABLE TO ME AT
LEAST IT ISN'T
HERE.



YOUR HELP
IS APPRECIATED.
FOR A VILLAIN,
YOU HAVE
SPIRIT.



PERHAPS,
BUT WHAT I
DON'T HAVE
IS CHIPS.



I'M SORRY
I'D INTENDED
YOU TO HAVE YOUR
PRIZE.



IT'S ALL RIGHT.
OUR PATHS WILL
CROSS, ONE DAY.
AFTER ALL, CHIPS
AND I...



...WE HAVE
FOREVER.



THE END

IN THE EARLY DAYS
OF NEW GENESIS...
BEFORE THE WARS...
BEFORE THE FALL...

WHEN IZAYA THE
INHERITOR MOVED THE
GODS FROM THE
SURFACE TO THE SKY...

AND WHEN THEY HAD FINISHED
RAISING THE CELESTIAL CITY,
AND IZAYA TURNED HIS MIND TO
OTHER MATTERS, ATINAI MOVED
TO HER PRIVATE GARDEN, FAR
FROM THE TOWERS.

HE WENT TO THE GODDESS KNOWN
AS ATINAI THE PURE, AND GAVE HER
THE POWER TO BUILD -- TO CREATE --
A PERFECT CITY OUT OF DIVINE
THOUGHT.

FOR NOW IT WAS TIME
FOR OTHER GODS TO
EXPLORE THIS CITY...

INCLUDING ONE AS
OLD AS THE FIRST
LIGHT OF CREATION

...AND AS YOUNG
AS THE SUNRISE.

ONLY HER
BELOVED
ONE, MARVA,
CAME WITH
HER

LIGHTRAY
OF THE NEW
GODS!

AH, ATINAI! SWEET,
PURE ATINAI, WHAT
A GLORIOUS GIFT
YOU HAVE GIVEN
US!

WHAT? ARE THOSE
SHADOWS OR
SHAKES?

EITHER WAY, I
DON'T THINK ATINAI
INTENDED TO
CREATE THEM

WELL, WELL. SOMEHOW I DO NOT THINK ATINAI BUILT THIS.

MAYBE IT'S TIME TO POUR SOME LIGHT INTO THIS DARKNESS, AND SEE JUST WHAT'S HIDING IN THERE.

SEE, LIGHTRAY? I WILL LET YOU SEE ME BUT YOU WILL NOT NEED YOUR PRECIOUS LIGHT.

AHH!

KIAZZ!

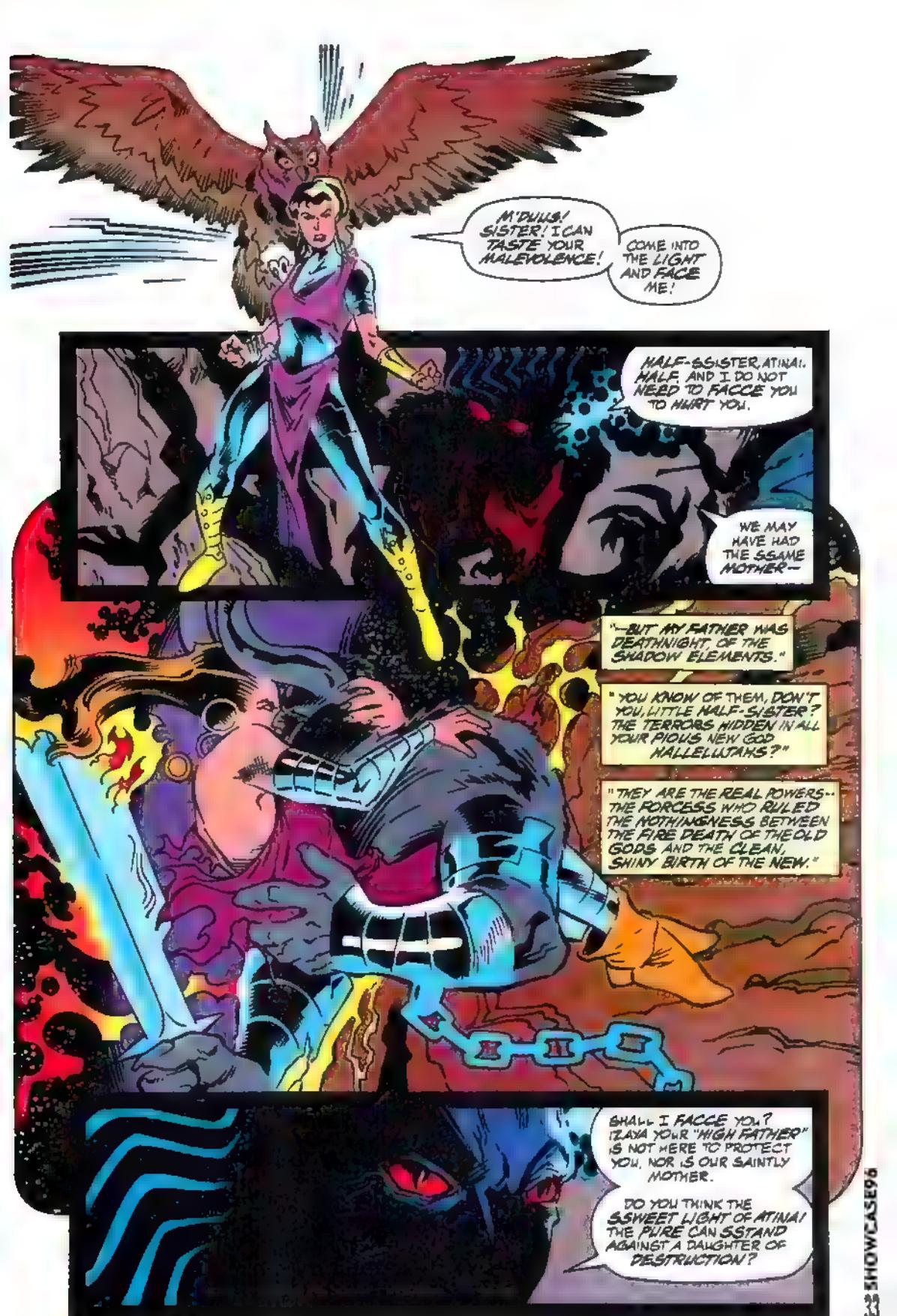
CAGES AND SHADOWS

RACHEL POLLACK - WRITER
JASON ARMSTRONG - PENCILLER
BRIAN GARVEY - INKER
KEN LOPEZ - LETTERER
GENE D'ANGELO - COLORIST
CHRIS EADES - EDITOR

THE NEW GODS CREATED BY
JACK KIRBY







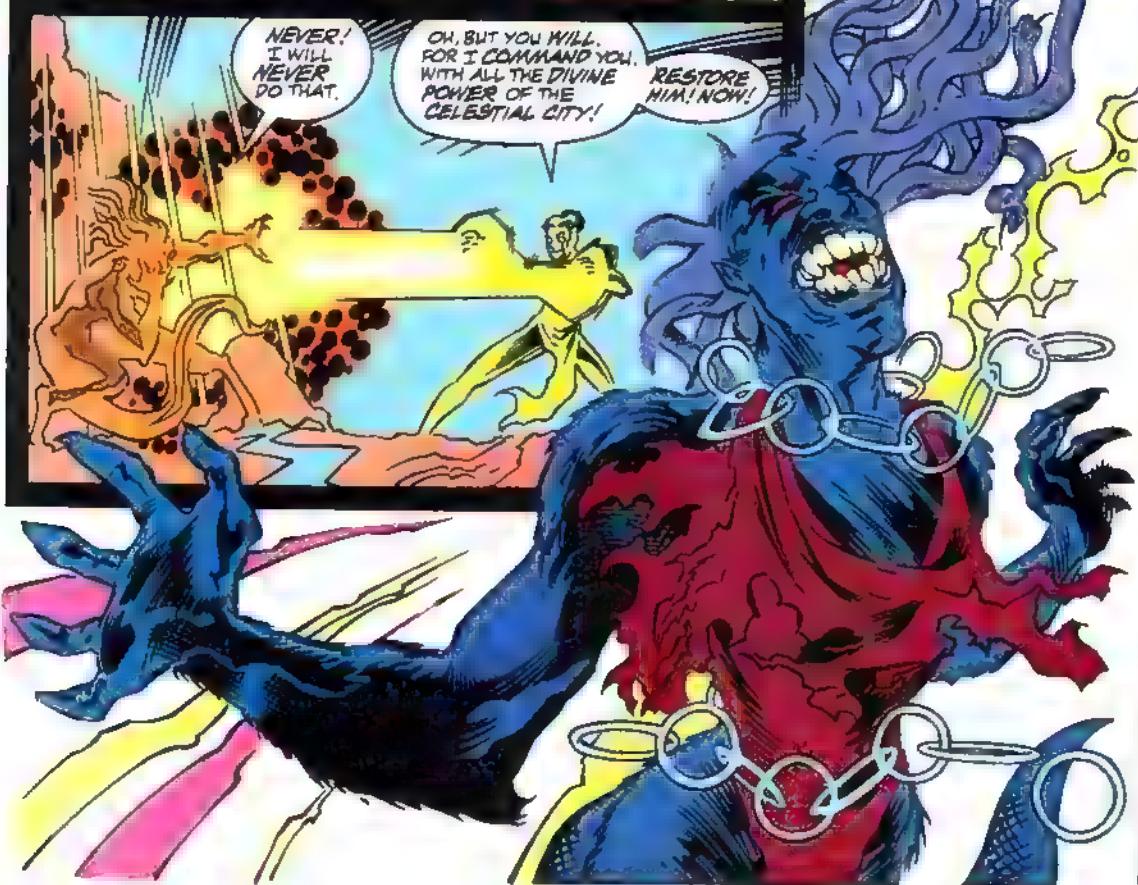


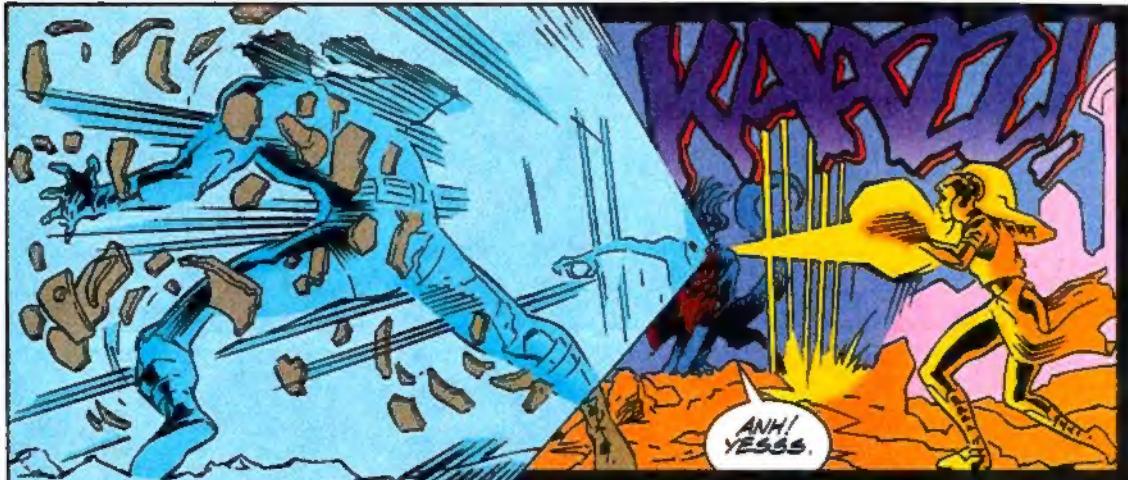
BEAUTY, ATINAIS
WHEN WHAT WILL YOUR
DREAMS UNIVERSE
BE GLIMMER?

GOODBYE,
ATINA! THE
BUILDER.

OH, YOU
WON'T DISMISS
ME AS EASILY
AS THAT,
SISTER.

DO YOU SEE?
THIS IS MY CITY,
AND I WILL NOT
LET YOU HARM
MY FRIENDS.





OH NARVA, SWEET
NARVA, I NEVER SHOULD
HAVE LET MY FOCUS
WANDER.

I'M
SORRY.
I'M SO
SORRY.

NO, ATINAL,
WE CAN DO
MORE THAN
PUT HER TO
REST.

WONDERFUL.
SO CLEAN
AGAIN, SO
PERFECT.

YES, BUT I
WONDER--
IS MY SISTER
TRULY GONE?

THOUGH YOU
REMAIN STONE,
NARVA, I GRANT
YOU THE POWER
OF FLIGHT.

LET HER BECOME
YOUR CHARIOT,
NARVA. WITH HER,
YOU WILL TRAVEL
THROUGH THIS DIVINE
AND GLORIOUS
CITY.

THE END

STEEL SPIDER SHADE CHASE C

We've got mail here on part two of the titanic team-up between Guy Gardner and Steel. We here at Case Studies were very pleased with the responses that we got. Sad to say, however, there weren't that many responses. As we stumble into '96, the mailbag is woefully tiny each month... so write! Tell us what you think! Tell us what you like! Tell us what you don't like! Tell us what you had for breakfast! Send us recipes! I think you guys get the idea.

Dear Frank & Jason,

Whoa! The lead story in SHOWCASE '96 #2 was one hell of a slugfest! The pairing of Guy Gardner and Steel, as we've seen before in WARRIOR, is one that can only be compared to the classic Green Lantern/Green Arrow stories from the 1970's. These guys have a sense of humor! These guys kick butt! I guess the best things about this story, aside from the top-notch art job by Sergio Cariello and Rob Leigh, and aside from the witty banter between Guy and Steel, was the fact that when push came to shove, these heroes shoved hard! I never thought I'd see the day where Steel would force a villain's fist down his own throat—in his own book, he seems so much calmer—but this is the sort of behavior he should exhibit more often. Maybe he's just like that when he hangs around Guy, and starts thinking he's back in college.

Circe is a bit of a mystery to me. I always got the impression that she was a class "A" ...uh...witch (this is still a Code book, no?) But apparently there's some sort of a heart underneath all of that attitude. Still, I can't believe she'll get away with making a monkey out of Ares. So when's he coming after her?

"Bad Head Day" was a good-looking story in this Steel-heavy issue (no complaints on my part). Great color, solid art. Officer Shauna Beryl has always reminded me of the "Lady Cop" feature from FIRST ISSUE SPECIAL, and this story makes me wonder if it isn't time to start a non-super-hero "Police Women" title. It was a laugh, though, watching her try to arrest Metallo. Like he's really gonna take her seriously with her .45! I guess Metal-head's days are numbered now that he's got a brain tumor. Neron plays a tough game of cards. Are there any more UNDERWORLD follow-ups in the works? Looking forward to Black Canary and Lois Lane next month. Thanks!

DAVID REECE
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

No...thank you, David. I'm glad that you support Steel's new policies when it comes to dealing with villains. If you're checking out STEEL, you'll notice that he's actually getting angrier and deadlier. He's taken enough guff from Hazard and is fighting back hard. No more Mr. Nice Steel! As for UNDERWORLD follow-ups, you will be seeing repercussions from UNDERWORLD

UNLEASHED in all of DC's books (including this one!)

Dear Jason,

SHOWCASE '96 #2 was awesome!

I honestly have to say that stories like "Good Guy, Bad Guy and the Other Guys" are why I read comics. I can't believe how incredible the artwork was! Three...count them, three outrageous double-page spreads!!! Those spreads were really gorgeous. I looked at them again and again after I'd finished the story. Sergio Cariello is a dynamite penciller! This reminded me of Marvel comics from the early eighties (some of the best comics out there).

I also quite enjoyed the two backup stories. The "Circe" story was very interesting and I'm glad you got Christopher Priest to write it. I (like many other fans, I assume) have been waiting eagerly to see Mr. Priest write this character again after two dynamite issues of WONDER WOMAN a couple of years back. He didn't disappoint me, either. This story sets up some nice changes for Circe, and I look forward to her next encounter with Diana.

The "Metallo" story was also quite good. I must say that this story was probably one of the best things that Louise Simonson has written in the last decade. (Why not put Beau Smith on Steel?) And the art? Absolutely wonderfull! I have always liked something about William Rosado's artwork, and I must say that I don't think it ever looked this good before! I attribute this to Prentis Rollins' inks. Please have Mr. Rollins ink Mr. Rosado more!

Looking forward to Black Canary and Lois Lane next month!

CLINT McNAUGHTON
1027 W. DUBOIS STREET
HYDE PARK, NEW YORK 12603

Thanks for the kind words, Clint. I agree with you wholeheartedly about Priest's take on Circe. As soon as I had decided that I wanted to showcase Circe, one name popped into my mind immediately. It was only a few minutes more before I was up to my elbows in my first of several plotting conferences with Priest. Hope you stick with us; we've got some pretty wild stories coming up this year!

Dear Jason and all you fellows at DC Comics: It's been a while since I've written, but the excellence of SHOWCASE '96 thus far has compelled me to crank up the old PC.

Part two of the Guy/Steel team-up: Wow! These two characters seem to really come alive in each other's company. I don't think I've ever before read a story where two straight heroes decide to end an annoying battle by just being as brutally violent as possible. And though I'm not a fan of violent stories per se, this one was funny and a nice relief from pretentious storylines common to lots of titles these days. Sergio Cariello should have a regular book! This guy's art is really fun! Rob

Leigh's inks were excellent once again.

Circe's little eastern-European adventure was quite unexpected. Priest is a refreshing writer who always can tell a simple story with lots of entertaining details. I've never seen the work of artist J. Alex Morrisey or inker Chip Wallace before. Interesting stuff reminiscent of Michael Golden. One question, though. Didn't Circe make a pact with Neron for new powers? Did she display her new powers here? And also, if she's now bonded to humanity, why did she team with Neron at all? Except for these questions, I really liked this story.

Regarding the Metallo story...So let me get this straight. The price of his new powers is a brain tumor? That leaves this villain in sort of desperate straits, considering his brain is the last living part of his body. Any plans for a return appearance of Metallo in SUPERMAN or STEEL? How about in SUPERBOY? Ah, I just like Metallo. I like this story very much—Louise Simonson did a great job portraying ordinary people facing a pompous but extremely powerful creature. I like the way the two women from Steel's "personal" life sort of "teamed up." I was glad to see artist Will Rosado drawing this character. He seems very suited to mechanical menaces. Hope we'll see him again soon, too. Ditto for embellisher Prentis Rollins. These two make a great team.

Looking forward to more Super team-ups!

SVETLANA METROVICH
CUERO, TEXAS

Svetlana, it's always great to hear from you. You may rest assured that you will be getting quality Super team-ups from us for the rest of the year! With regard to your comments about the Circe story: you've hit the nail on the head. Circe has a very serious paradox that she needs to deal with. While she has been a self-centered evil character for centuries, suddenly her bonding with a human has created a hitherto unseen compassion—a compassion that is only felt for women and children...Rest assured, Svetlana, that we will see how this moral dyslexia continues to prey on Circe.



Dear Frank, Jason and Chris,

This time I'll be quick.

SHOWCASE '96 #2 kicked off with a delightful story featuring Guy Gardner: Warrior and Steel. I'm not a

great fan of either hero, but they worked well together (their joshing exchanges were as funny as any "Say, Man" suite on Chess's Bo Diddley Box!) and I'd love to see another pairing of them somewhere...perhaps with Guy putting together a reference to "the Hair Club for Men" and a quotation from an old coach deducing that Steel and John Henry Irons are one and the same!

After that, though, it was downhill. The Circe story had a good ending and Priest treated Circe's current situation with a lot of intriguing ambiguity, but Ares's discussing was incredibly dull and the topical references meant little. The belligerents may be battling in "God's" name, but it's a cinch that the God is monolithic and doesn't hail from Olympus.

Similarly, the Metallo episode had a good ending, although it was more ominous than thought-provoking. But "Bad Head Day" required more interest in its protagonist than I could muster, and there didn't seem to be any ambiguity to discover in him, as there was in Circe. Worst of all, he looked like a kissing cousin of Shrapnel.

SHOWCASE '96 #2 didn't offer a good way to end a year, but as the true 1996 kids in with #3, my expectations are high. How could they not be? Lois Lane, Black Canary and Oracle! Deadman! (With Jamie Delano scripting? Wade Von Gravbadger artwork? I'll enjoy that!) Lightyear! (YEAH YEAH YEAH!!!!!!) Sounds great to me.

So, until then, thank you for your time.

CHARLES J. SPERLING
FLUSHING, NEW YORK

Sorry our post-UNDERWORLD UNLEASHED stories didn't seem to grab you by the short pants, Charles. I thought I'd bring it to your attention, however, that Metallo is, in fact, a kissing cousin of Shrapnel... as is Editor Frank Pittarese.



Well that's all for this edition of CASE STUDIES...don't forget to write!

CASE STUDIES
c/o Jason Hernandez-Rosenblatt
DC COMICS
1700 Broadway
New York, NY 10019

Jason Hernandez-Rosenblatt
—not a kissing cousin to Shrapnel

NEXT ISSUE:



In the latest episode of SUPERBOY: THE ANIMATED SERIES, the cartoon Kid of Steel visits Project Cadmus, where he's tricked into summoning a demon—but when the DEMON ETRIGAN appears, all hell breaks loose—literally. When FIRESTORM enters a rehab clinic, his powers go out of control in a story by Robert Washington and Randy DuBurke. Last, but not least, Ray Palmer attends his high school reunion, but only as the ATOM can he save the life of a suicidal former girlfriend in a story written by Anthony Martin, penciled by Derek Aucoin, and inked by Jason Martin.

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